

EXHIBIT NO. JTX-025 evid.
CAUSE NO. 3:22-cv-00734-DPJ-HSO-LHS
WITNESS _____
CLERK: SHONE POWELL

FEB 26 2024

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI
Candice Cane, REPORTER

STANDING JOINT CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE
Hearing on 08/09/2021

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TRANSCRIPT OF AUDIO-RECORDED
PUBLIC HEARING OF THE
STANDING JOINT CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE
AUGUST 9, 2021
SENATOBIA, MISSISSIPPI

STANDING JOINT CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE
Hearing on 08/09/2021

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<p align="right">Page 2</p> <p>1 MR. CHAIRMAN: Before we get started. So -- but 2 here's a few minutes after. And, um, I would go ahead 3 and do that. I think we have rooms that if there are 4 any legislators in the House that -- that want to join 5 us, is [inaudible] they're more than welcome to do 6 that. I -- if you'd rather just stay out there than I 7 understand. 8 But, um, uh, that's up to you. Uh, before we get 9 started, a couple quick -- one [inaudible] it's not 10 [inaudible]. Uh, I want to give him just an 11 opportunity to say a word -- not, uh, thank you for 12 this opportunity to be open your facilities up to us. 13 But, uh, you want to say what? 14 MALE 2: Sure. Be happy to, uh, uh, again, 15 welcome to Northwest Mississippi Community College. 16 On behalf of our students, our faculty, staff, 17 and administration. We are so excited that you're here 18 tonight. And, um, we welcome our legislators and, um, 19 you all have a tall task ahead of you. And so, uh, Mr. 20 Chairman, we are, uh, uh, happy to host you excited 21 that you're here. 22 Please let us know if we can do anything to help 23 you in any way. Um, we've got some staff, uh, 24 dispersed throughout the room and I'd be happy to help 25 in any way. Again, thank you so much for being here.</p>	<p align="right">Page 4</p> <p>1 Uh, by custom we try to give members of the 2 public, a free opportunity to say what they wish in 3 cases where it appears that are going to be many 4 persons who are to speak, we limit their time and -- 5 and we have a good crowd here tonight. 6 So we are going to, uh, limit the time and 7 concentrated pass and then limit it to five minutes. 8 So try to keep your remarks to -- to that. 9 Uh, at this -- at this time, um, as -- as 10 Chairman, I want to call the public hearing of the 11 joint reapportioning committee, joint congressional 12 redistricting committee to order and ask our council 13 to call -- to call the role of members present. 14 MALE 3: Thank you. Mr. Beckett? 15 MR. BECKETT: Here. 16 MALE 3: Mr. Blackman [ph]? Mr. Brown? Mr. 17 Eubanks? Mr. Ford? 18 MR. FORD: Here. 19 MALE 3: Mr. Hanford [ph]? Mr. Reed [ph]? Mr. 20 Shanks? 21 MR. SHANKS: Here. 22 MALE 3: Mr. Taylor? Mr. White? Mr. Kirby? 23 MR. KIRBY: Here. 24 MALE 3: Mr. Bryan [ph]? 25 MR. BRYAN: Here.</p>
<p align="right">Page 3</p> <p>1 I'll may have noticed a construction project 2 going on that's -- that's where our instrumental our 3 vocal and our music production and recording programs 4 will move to on campus. And also there'll be a theater 5 over there. So that's a little bit of the 6 construction. 7 We just finished a new residence hall on campus. 8 Students are moving into it and excited for the s- -- 9 uh, fall semester coming up. And so quick plug, if you 10 know anybody tell them we're registering, uh, for the 11 fall semester. Mr. Chairman, uh, thank you so much. 12 Appreciate you all being here. 13 MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. I'm not coming back. 14 Um, and I -- I appreciate y'all being here tonight and 15 we're going to go ahead. I'm just going to -- a couple 16 things I want to cover before we get started. 17 Um, the talk can be hold public hearings to 18 receive suggestions and recommendations on how the 19 Mississippi legislature should [inaudible] and these 20 four congressional districts. 21 Uh, during the course of the hearing, um, I will 22 offer, uh, members of the public an opportunity to 23 give their comments to the committee, or to give 24 statements to the committee about our upcoming 25 redistricting efforts.</p>	<p align="right">Page 5</p> <p>1 MALE 3: Mr. Dover [ph]? Mr. Bearman [ph]? 2 MR. BEARMAN: Here. 3 MALE 3: Mr. Hops? Mr. Parker? Mr. Simmons? Mr. 4 Tate? 5 MR. TATE: Here. 6 MALE 3: Mr. Turner-Ford? And Mr. Higgins [ph]? 7 MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, counsel. I just want to 8 remind you -- each -- each of you that, um, although 9 we call the role, a quorum is not required because 10 this is not a -- a -- a regular meeting and we're 11 calling the role simply for the purpose of knowing 12 who's present. 13 Um, we have approximately 70 members of this 14 committee, um, and it is -- it is a diverse committee 15 of both past member of these [inaudible], African- 16 American squads, they male, female. So although the 17 crowd here tonight might not reflect that, but, uh, I 18 just wanted to point that out to you. 19 Um, I don't think we had any members arriving 20 late. And so I want to just finish on that. Um, 21 additionally, um, we do have some other legislators 22 here that are here in the audience and I want to thank 23 them for coming. And if you can give them an 24 opportunity to -- to identify themselves? 25 MR. LUCERN: Mike Lucern [ph], [inaudible]</p>

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<p>1 district 11.</p> <p>2 [applause]</p> <p>3 MR. JACKSON: Representative Bester Jackson,</p> <p>4 Iacrate [ph], district 40.</p> <p>5 [applause]</p> <p>6 MR. MCLENNON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. State</p> <p>7 Senator Mike McLennon [ph], district one [inaudible].</p> <p>8 [applause]</p> <p>9 MR. WHITE: State Senator Dale White [ph]</p> <p>10 [inaudible].</p> <p>11 [applause]</p> <p>12 MR. CHAIRMAN: Or now -- excuse me. I believe</p> <p>13 that's all the members are here. I want to thank our</p> <p>14 staff for all -- all the work they've done to prepare,</p> <p>15 for the -- prepare for this meeting.</p> <p>16 Uh, these things don't just happen. Somebody has</p> <p>17 to -- has to plan and -- and okay, organize these</p> <p>18 things, and get everything ready for us.</p> <p>19 And it's just, you know, I want to thank both our</p> <p>20 [inaudible] staff and -- and the others involved in</p> <p>21 this process. Uh, and -- and this time I'd like to</p> <p>22 open up if any members of the committee have anything</p> <p>23 they would like to say?</p> <p>24 MALE 4: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, uh, first thank</p> <p>25 you for being here and we're here to listen and learn</p>	<p>1 And a few of the things are, you know, why -- why</p> <p>2 do we redistrict? And so, you know, need to point out</p> <p>3 that both our federal constitution --</p> <p>4 constitutional requirements of one person, one vote</p> <p>5 requires redistrict both -- both congressional</p> <p>6 districts and legislative districts every 10 years</p> <p>7 following the census.</p> <p>8 Additionally, Section 2.4 of the constitution of</p> <p>9 1890 requires that we redistrict the legislature. So</p> <p>10 we are here tonight redi- -- starting this redistrict</p> <p>11 process because we're required to. And the next -- the</p> <p>12 next thing, you know, quickly -- we actually convinced</p> <p>13 this redistrict in 94 to make -- make the public known</p> <p>14 that we -- we started this process actually just</p> <p>15 recently, um, this committee was -- was formed, uh,</p> <p>16 we've hired some council.</p> <p>17 And this is a third in series of nine public</p> <p>18 hearings that we'll have across the state. Um, and so</p> <p>19 the process is -- is started over the coming --</p> <p>20 because of that. Uh, we're going to -- it's because of</p> <p>21 the qualifying deadlines, next -- our next year, our</p> <p>22 [inaudible] congressional redistricting will come</p> <p>23 first and we -- and will occur during the fall of the</p> <p>24 year. And then we will be working on the ledge --</p> <p>25 legislature during the months of the 2022 legislative</p>
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<p>1 from you guys. Uh, let me -- let me tell you, even</p> <p>2 though a lot of the House members and senators aren't</p> <p>3 here, they are in a sense that they're watching</p> <p>4 online. They set -- they said they are Lieutenant</p> <p>5 governor is the same.</p> <p>6 So, um, I'd like to also thank those, all of the</p> <p>7 members, uh, of this committee or members of the House</p> <p>8 and Senate for being here. I especially appreciate</p> <p>9 Neil Wally [ph] for being here who just tested</p> <p>10 negative. He's, uh, been very, very sick and we're</p> <p>11 very glad to see you, Neil. So, uh, thank you for</p> <p>12 being here.</p> <p>13 MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. Is there any other</p> <p>14 members of the committee? Alright, well, thank you.</p> <p>15 I'd like to start out by saying that, um, in</p> <p>16 preparation for this meeting, our staff has gone</p> <p>17 through the transcripts of the prior meetings we had,</p> <p>18 including the hearings done in 2010 and from their</p> <p>19 review, there have been certain questions and certain</p> <p>20 things that -- that have been asked repeatedly.</p> <p>21 So I'm going to try to answer some of those</p> <p>22 things now in hopes that it might provide a little</p> <p>23 clarity to some of the people that are here. And just</p> <p>24 might answer some of the questions without someone had</p> <p>25 to go over.</p>	<p>1 session. So it's now upon us to get started.</p> <p>2 Uh, one other thing is, um, you know, because the</p> <p>3 population shifts, we will face challenges. I mean,</p> <p>4 that's -- that's just a common theme with every</p> <p>5 redistricting. It's always movements as a population.</p> <p>6 And I know that you all were very well aware in the</p> <p>7 news there's been basically we have the same</p> <p>8 population we did 10 years ago.</p> <p>9 But the only problem with that is, is this moved</p> <p>10 a line. We have a few candidates in [inaudible]</p> <p>11 population, we have a few candidates in the</p> <p>12 [inaudible] population. We have a lot of candidates</p> <p>13 that lost a little bit of population, but a few that</p> <p>14 gained. So, um, so there's been a great deal of</p> <p>15 movement around the state. Both situations, um, faced</p> <p>16 the challenges.</p> <p>17 You have -- we have places, uh, like the Meridian</p> <p>18 that we've already been to and -- and -- and a few</p> <p>19 other areas of the state that every candidate lost</p> <p>20 population. So that's -- that's one set of problems or</p> <p>21 problems that you have.</p> <p>22 Then we have areas like this area, like area</p> <p>23 along the coast where you have some counties that have</p> <p>24 gained a lot of population. Um, although here if you</p> <p>25 take a pretty broad -- a picture of it, you can see</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 10</p> <p>1 from the seps around that of some gained, some lost. 2 And now I will encourage you to take a look at 3 the seps that are around, and you can kind of -- we'll 4 give you an idea of both congressional Senate and -- 5 and House districts and -- and the population changes 6 in each one of them. 7 Um, the, uh, exhibit also shows that they're 8 ideal population sizes for a part district. The ideal 9 size is 24,273. Now we have some tolerance and we can 10 go up and down on -- on that five percent. 11 For civil district is 56,984. The same thing, we 12 have some toddlers, but one thing that I want to point 13 out for -- for our congressional districts, we have 14 four of them and they basically have to be the same 15 size. 16 Um, that tolerance is like a one vote tolerance 17 if we'd have to do not make them even. And so we're 18 practically making more districts the same size and 19 that's going to require, you might ask, you why did 20 you split a county? 21 Well, [inaudible] split last time Wayne was 22 split. You're just not going to be able to avoid that 23 little -- and meet the requirements that -- that are 24 set out. So, uh, there -- there will be challenges 25 because of the shifting.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 12</p> <p>1 probably going to have larger districts, or if you 2 live in the Southern County, you're probably going to 3 have is smaller districts. 4 Or you might even possibility in that area having 5 more representation totally. But it's just enough to 6 go ahead and get started. And so that's -- that's -- 7 that's why we're usually the, um, the estimates, 8 because that's the best information we have. You know, 9 and the [inaudible], members of the public participate 10 in the process. And there are several ways that 11 members of the public can participate in this process. 12 One is by discussing their concerns at this 13 meeting. Um, the comments that -- that you might have, 14 this meeting is a way of participating. So -- so we're 15 here to hear your concerns this evening. We will 16 listen to any matter that you wish to bring to our 17 attention about and how and where we will draw 18 congressional and legislative districts. 19 Now, I notice tend to for some people to get off 20 on other subjects about different things involved in 21 the legislative process or election process. But -- 22 but our -- our role is simply to draw the districts. 23 And so, if you can keep your comments to that, it 24 would be -- it would be appreciated. Um, let -- let 25 members of the public know that -- and they must sign</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 11</p> <p>1 You know, the -- the other thing is why would you 2 present any census estimates at -- at this year, you 3 know, because of the delays in producing the census 4 data, um, I think when this process started, we were 5 hoping by April 15th. Is -- it was original data we 6 were supposed to receive this information. 7 But, um, but the actual numbers we use in 8 redistricting are not yet available and, um, there's 9 only so long we can wait till we start the process. 10 Um, the first set of data will be available, um, 11 hopefully Fri- -- uh, mid -- in mid August, uh, with - 12 - with the final official delivery occurring, close to 13 September. 14 The census estimates give us a good indication of 15 -- of where our challenges are and have been used in 16 the past year is to assist the public in 17 understanding the issues faced in redistricting. 18 Primarily, they're pretty close on the county 19 numbers. And so you get -- get a good idea, what 20 counties have grown. What we don't have yet, are 21 precinct by precinct data. 22 I might not be able to tell you what part of the 23 county grew, and they're not numbers that we can use 24 to draw the seps from yet, but they're numbers for you 25 to know that if you live in the Meridian area, that we</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 13</p> <p>1 -- sign the card with their name so the committee can 2 call them. 3 [inaudible] ideas that earlier and if anyone 4 needs one, if they'll just let the staff know that 5 they'll be -- they'll be glad to do that. And, uh, you 6 -- you can submit your suggestions to the committee in 7 writing or by email, or you can take advantage of the 8 opportunity to use the committee's public asset access 9 computer terminals. 10 Once we get all the information in, there will be 11 a time that the public can access a computer terminals 12 in -- in -- in Jackson's redistricting office. And, 13 um, you know, in hearing what kind of concerns does 14 the committee -- is the committee need to hear from 15 the public, and that's basically any concerns that you 16 have. The things that are -- things that are on your 17 mind is the simple answer. 18 In the past, we've heard things talk about voting 19 rights, and issues, uh, [inaudible] precincts or the, 20 you know, municipalities are -- I heard a comment 21 about that today talking about when Bernardo (ph) was 22 flipped 20 years ago. 23 Um, and it might be that, um, dist- -- dist- -- 24 districts that are odd shaped, you saw that cannot be 25 avoided when you can- -- when you comply with the</p>

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<p>1 other requirements that we have. But those are --</p> <p>2 those are the types of concerns. And sure, you know,</p> <p>3 we've heard most of the things that -- that people are</p> <p>4 going to talk about, but you're -- you're free to</p> <p>5 bring that up.</p> <p>6 Just a reminder of the rules of the House,</p> <p>7 governing joint committees, and, um, and -- and we</p> <p>8 will handle such, um, such -- such matters as a House</p> <p>9 would -- would handle these, you know, and I'm going to</p> <p>10 get this address, although I know that address is on</p> <p>11 material that you've gotten.</p> <p>12 But please remember that if something's kind of</p> <p>13 feel redundant or odd, it's because, uh, we are</p> <p>14 broadcasting this and everybody that had access to the</p> <p>15 written material that you have.</p> <p>16 So I'm going to try to slowly get to the address</p> <p>17 on certain things, but if you have questions or</p> <p>18 comments, you can send them to Ted Booth (ph), Staff</p> <p>19 Council, Joint Reinforcement Committee, PO Box 1264,</p> <p>20 Jackson, Mississippi 3921-1264.</p> <p>21 Or you can send an email to ted.booth@pep --</p> <p>22 that's p-e-e-r .ms.gov and like I say, that -- that</p> <p>23 information is on the subject and of course hangs out.</p> <p>24 And if you need the address, the staff will be happy</p> <p>25 to give you that address, uh, when hear- -- when the</p>	<p>1 of residents from Jago.</p> <p>2 Uh, some have made it but they're present and we</p> <p>3 would like to hold our community together. Um, we --</p> <p>4 we -- if you traveling down Church Road, the mingling</p> <p>5 South Raven, Mississippi you'll see Jago. Free slaves</p> <p>6 bought the land in 1890 as a quest to become self</p> <p>7 sufficient and we're still self- -- self-sufficient.</p> <p>8 We have the educational backgrounds. We're still</p> <p>9 own property in, uh, a lot of ancestry problems was</p> <p>10 here living on those properties. But our resources are</p> <p>11 limited in creating that township that we had once</p> <p>12 before.</p> <p>13 We had a general store, a postmaster, uh, we own</p> <p>14 a cotton gin. We were a self-sufficient township, and</p> <p>15 we would like to regain that. We would like for you to</p> <p>16 draw those lines, that represent Jago, Mississippi, a</p> <p>17 self-sufficient community.</p> <p>18 Now, um, I know, um, you may be wondering how I</p> <p>19 want you to go about it, but I present that map to</p> <p>20 you. I don't want to stay over my five minutes because</p> <p>21 it's go on and on. But I will send that map to you.</p> <p>22 I have that address and I'll send you other</p> <p>23 documents that will enable you to make your final</p> <p>24 decision, to create Jago community of a separate</p> <p>25 district where we have about my own representatives,</p>
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<p>1 hearing is over.</p> <p>2 Um, before I, um, call the -- on the public, does</p> <p>3 anyone have anything else that would like that to add</p> <p>4 [inaudible]? All right. Well, um, you know, I -- I</p> <p>5 want -- I want to thank you again for doing that and</p> <p>6 I'm going to call these in or -- order that -- that I</p> <p>7 received them.</p> <p>8 And, uh, Gail Lyons (ph)? If -- if you would</p> <p>9 please come to the podium? There -- there again,</p> <p>10 that's more for the people who aren't here that are</p> <p>11 watching this than it is for our benefit.</p> <p>12 MS. LYONS: First shall be last and the last</p> <p>13 shall be first. Thank you. I'm here representing Jago</p> <p>14 [ph], Mississippi.</p> <p>15 MR. CHAIRMAN: Will you pull the mic down just --</p> <p>16 like --</p> <p>17 MS. LYONS: Can you hear me?</p> <p>18 MR. CHAIRMAN: Yeah.</p> <p>19 MS. LYONS: I'm here representing Jago,</p> <p>20 Mississippi. And we're requesting today that you draw</p> <p>21 the lines to represent Jacob as separate community.</p> <p>22 Um, let me tell you a little bit about Jago.</p> <p>23 Um, my name is [inaudible] Sabines (ph) and I was</p> <p>24 born, raised, uh, live in Jago. Jago Diego as a</p> <p>25 community of interest. And I -- I'm here with a group</p>	<p>1 etc., to come back.</p> <p>2 We -- we prefer that. And -- and I think that we</p> <p>3 deserve that. And I will send you the information. Do</p> <p>4 you have any questions for me about Jago?</p> <p>5 MR. CHAIRMAN: No. I --</p> <p>6 MS. LYONS: This is Jago. South Haven. Thank you.</p> <p>7 MR. CHAIRMAN: Look forward to getting that very</p> <p>8 such.</p> <p>9 [applause]</p> <p>10 MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. Next, uh, Ms. Eisen</p> <p>11 [ph]?</p> <p>12 MS. EISEN: Good evening.</p> <p>13 MR. CHAIRMAN: Good evening.</p> <p>14 MS. EISEN: I'm Teresa (ph) Gillespie (ph) Eisen.</p> <p>15 And I'm a resident of DeSoto (ph) County. And I do</p> <p>16 have a folder I'd like to give to you. And I live at</p> <p>17 DeSoto County. I've lived there for 16 years.</p> <p>18 I'm a resident of Olive Branch, Mississippi, and</p> <p>19 I've lived in Olive Branch for 15 years. I'm here</p> <p>20 today because of the unfair map for House district</p> <p>21 seven and for ward two in Olive Branch. The maps that</p> <p>22 apparently being used have helped to encourage and</p> <p>23 provide voter suppression.</p> <p>24 During my residency, there has been -- there has</p> <p>25 not been a Democrat elected to any office in Olive</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 18</p> <p>1 Branch during my 16 years as a resident. My issue is 2 that the map for House district six and district seven 3 appear to have been drawn to dilute the Democratic 4 vote. Areas like North Pleasant Hill, have been split 5 to be in part of each district.</p> <p>6 Also, part of DeSoto Central is included in 7 district seven and the same for Mineral (ph) Wells 8 (ph). The precincts are split. I ran for state 9 representative and it was important because I felt 10 like I could help in the community in which I live, 11 but it was impossible to win the race because of the 12 split of precincts.</p> <p>13 I, again, tried for position in the municipal 14 race in Olive Branch, and again I found that the ward 15 had been drawn to elect the same person that was 16 already the candidate in office. Right in the middle 17 of the ward is a whole section that has been removed 18 and placed into another ward. It's very obvious the 19 process of political practice was put in place and 20 implemented in DeSoto County to dilute the votes and 21 therefore caused the voter suppression.</p> <p>22 This process is also preventing the const- -- 23 constituents in these districts and wards from being 24 elected. And from these electing their preferred 25 candidates of choice. I have brought a copy of a map</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 20</p> <p>1 And more people have moved into the district since 2 that time. If nothing changes, the people will become 3 more despondent and will stop exercising their right 4 to vote.</p> <p>5 I am asking that you will review the maps for 6 district seven and for ward two and all the other 7 districts and wards in DeSoto County. And make sure 8 that all the people have a fair chance to have 9 representation in DeSoto County. I'm also asking that 10 we will be allowed to review the maps before they are 11 finalized. And thank you for allowing me to speak.</p> <p>12 [applause]</p> <p>13 MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Uh, Ms. Marilyn Young?</p> <p>14 MS. YOUNG: Good afternoon.</p> <p>15 MR. CHAIRMAN: Afternoon.</p> <p>16 MS. YOUNG: First of all, thank you county for 17 allowing us an opportunity to speak. Um, my name is 18 Marilyn Young. I'm a lifelong resident of Trinity (ph) 19 County, and I work in several of the other counties, 20 uh, around the Mississippi Delta. And I stand before 21 you to speak on behalf of the City Education 22 Organising Alliance.</p> <p>23 Uh, we've been working with this redistricting 24 process for probably about 25 years now. And so, 25 there's some things that we're very concerned about</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 19</p> <p>1 and it's there within the folder. A complete 2 subdivision has been removed that is in the center of 3 ward two and an area that is five miles away was 4 included in ward two, when you have one that was right 5 across the street.</p> <p>6 This is so unfair. I am the HOA president in my 7 neighborhood and people from other HOAs and 8 neighborhoods, they come to me about issues that 9 affect our community and ask for my assistance in 10 helping to resolve them. It is important that all 11 citizens have a voice and that people feel that their 12 voice is going to be heard.</p> <p>13 Like I mentioned earlier, I have lived in DeSoto 14 County for 16 years and Olive Branch for 15. I can say 15 that we have not had a town hall meeting that has been 16 open to everyone so that the issues that the citizens 17 have can be heard and discussed. The voices of 18 everyone should matter. I am a community advocate and 19 volunteer for many organizations in DeSoto County to 20 help our community.</p> <p>21 And I am requesting that fairly drawn lines be 22 drawn for DeSoto County. Fairly drawn maps will allow 23 DeSoto County to be a community for all of the people, 24 especially in Olive Branch and South Haven.</p> <p>25 District seven had 3,551, uh, residents in 2010.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 21</p> <p>1 given what happened in the last redistricting process.</p> <p>2 Uh, one of the first things I want to ask is that 3 the last time the plans were drawn, the community did 4 not get an opportunity to view, see, or analyze them 5 before official vote was taken by the legislator.</p> <p>6 We are asking you once these maps are drawn, will 7 you please allow public hearings to be called so that 8 people can get an opportunity to review the maps, uh, 9 analyze, and -- and see what -- and part of the reason 10 for that we want to ask you all not to rack up on, uh, 11 additional seats, just because you can, because we 12 understand that the Republicans are in charge of this 13 process.</p> <p>14 And so, we want to make sure that doesn't happen.</p> <p>15 In the last process, uh, there were districts drawn to 16 make sure like that wiped out almost every white 17 Democrat that was in the state of Mississippi.</p> <p>18 And we want to make sure that is not happen this 19 time. And so as part of the redistricting principles 20 that I would like to ask, um, you all to please adhere 21 to. We ask that the districts are composed and very 22 contiguous -- we ask that the districts be compact.</p> <p>23 We ask that the districts should plan to avoid 24 political, racial gerrymandering. Uh, we ask that the 25 redistricting plan avoid political gerrymandering. We</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 22</p> <p>1 want to make sure everybody's voice is heard.</p> <p>2 Um, we want to ask that a redistricting plan will</p> <p>3 not have the effect and the purpose of effective of</p> <p>4 the newly minority voting strength. And should</p> <p>5 otherwise confined with section five and section two</p> <p>6 of voting rights act, the 14th and 15th amendment of</p> <p>7 the Constitution.</p> <p>8 This planning should avoid drawing districts that</p> <p>9 are odd shapes. We ask that boundaries should, uh, not</p> <p>10 cross, uh, government and political boundaries have at</p> <p>11 least more than one trend. We don't want precincts</p> <p>12 broken up. And one side of the street is on one</p> <p>13 district and the other side of the street on another</p> <p>14 one. It just causes so much confusion at the</p> <p>15 voting, uh, place.</p> <p>16 The redistricting plan should be drafted, such</p> <p>17 that the districts and boundaries of, uh, along major</p> <p>18 roads, streams, natural and visible boundaries.</p> <p>19 We ask that the redistricting plan, uh, reserve,</p> <p>20 uh, the long standing tradition of communities of</p> <p>21 interest. We would like to see these plans so we can</p> <p>22 make sure that some of these, uh, redistricting</p> <p>23 principles are adhered to.</p> <p>24 Uh, we also are asking and are pleading to please</p> <p>25 see the plans given that the census data has not been</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 24</p> <p>1 represented. Representation is very important. If we</p> <p>2 look at the board of supervising in DeSoto County,</p> <p>3 zero. There's no African American and there's no</p> <p>4 opportunity to be elected.</p> <p>5 I ran in 2019 and was defeated, was swallowed up.</p> <p>6 Um, in DeSoto County office of the Chancellor Clerk.</p> <p>7 Certain clerk, tax assessors, justice court clerks,</p> <p>8 constables.</p> <p>9 We don't have an African Americans represented</p> <p>10 there. School board, the county school boards. Our</p> <p>11 children are going to school. Gentlemen, this is</p> <p>12 taxation without representation.</p> <p>13 JESSE: Yeah.</p> <p>14 MR. WOODRUFF: That's what we need.</p> <p>15 [applause]</p> <p>16 MR. WOODRUFF: We're just asking you to consider</p> <p>17 and be fair. Because I would like to think everybody's</p> <p>18 fair. And this should be some fairness there. And --</p> <p>19 and I understand that you guys, uh, you jumped into</p> <p>20 legislative office, Senate or legislature, but we want</p> <p>21 to get on record that Olive Branch and the city, uh,</p> <p>22 South Haven in the city, and DeSoto County, it needs</p> <p>23 to be some consideration there.</p> <p>24 We're paying taxes, just like equal taxes, just</p> <p>25 like everybody else. And look at everybody else is</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 23</p> <p>1 released. We're asking for re- -- uh, you all to come</p> <p>2 back with public hearings after y'all have drawn the</p> <p>3 plan so we can review, analyze, and look at the plans</p> <p>4 also. Because we know ultimately you all are the ones</p> <p>5 that have the final authority in the bulk of the</p> <p>6 plans. But we ask that you do it fairly. Thank you.</p> <p>7 [applause]</p> <p>8 MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. Mr. James</p> <p>9 Woodruff [ph]?</p> <p>10 MR. WOODRUFF: Good evening, how you doing this</p> <p>11 evening?</p> <p>12 MR. CHAIRMAN: Fine. We're all right.</p> <p>13 MR. WOODRUFF: I'm James Woodruff, representative</p> <p>14 of, uh, DeSoto County and district two and, uh, live</p> <p>15 in Olive Branch in ward one.</p> <p>16 And there are no African Americans represented in</p> <p>17 DeSoto County and Olive Branch and -- and, uh, in</p> <p>18 South Haven. Understand that the representatives, the</p> <p>19 representatives are a- -- seven, we have and there's</p> <p>20 one Ms. Rester, the state Senate there's three and</p> <p>21 zero.</p> <p>22 And that the population has grown. And we -- I'm</p> <p>23 just here to ask you guys to consider African</p> <p>24 Americans. Consider redistricting plan to give the</p> <p>25 African Americans a chance to get to be the</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 25</p> <p>1 making a decision with the money that we pay. We're</p> <p>2 paying the money, you know -- and -- and whenever</p> <p>3 y'all make a decision, we have no representation.</p> <p>4 I was a part of 1980. I'm trying to do this real</p> <p>5 fast, 1980 I was part of a redistricting plan Westford</p> <p>6 [ph] County, Mississippi where we went to court,</p> <p>7 federal court in Oxford, and the judge ordered the --</p> <p>8 the -- the city -- it -- they were -- they were voting</p> <p>9 in March. And 80 to 20 or 75 to 25. And we -- we had</p> <p>10 no chance of winning. So at that time, the judge ruled</p> <p>11 that they held district a drone to giving the African</p> <p>12 Americans a chance of -- of a majority of the</p> <p>13 district.</p> <p>14 So after that, we went on to the county, some</p> <p>15 thing in the county. So I served 16 years between the</p> <p>16 two of them because of redistricting and we weren't</p> <p>17 fine. And since I've been gone, that was in -- that</p> <p>18 was almost 2000, I'd been gone from there about 20</p> <p>19 years. And those people are still in office down there</p> <p>20 and been working for [inaudible].</p> <p>21 The African Americans [inaudible], they're in the</p> <p>22 city, there's two African Americans there in the city.</p> <p>23 You know, in the county -- there's a county</p> <p>24 supervisor, and then, uh, in the school system. I have</p> <p>25 a good friend who got elected and he's the chairman of</p>

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<p align="right">Page 26</p> <p>1 the board. He's the only African American on the 2 board. 3 So we can do those things. We can do this, but it 4 needs to be fair. We -- you -- you all need to 5 consider this with respect to DeSoto County with the 6 population grow, we need to consider those lines. 7 We're asking y'all if y'all will do, but it's a 8 oppression to be taxed and don't have representation. 9 It's -- it's oppression. That's exactly what tyranny. 10 I'm going to give you the def- -- the definition 11 of tyranny. It's a cruel and oppressive government. I 12 know you all know that. It's wrong. And here's what 13 the good Lord says about that. He say, anyone whom 14 oppresses the poor or the weak shall -- shows contempt 15 for the master. You're oppressed and we're -- and -- 16 and being -- being a minority does make you weaker. I 17 know you all agree with that. 18 So we're just asking you all to consider that 19 when you were drawing the lines. I understand that you 20 all are align within the city, for the county -- for 21 the county, so, but we'll still want to get it on 22 record. Thank you all for listening to me and hope 23 y'all will consider. Thank you so much. 24 [applause] 25 MR. CHAIRMAN: Ms. Kerr [ph]?</p>	<p align="right">Page 28</p> <p>1 practices or procedures, including redistricting plans 2 that dilute minority voting strength. 3 In a series of cases in 1960s, one of which was 4 towing the phrase one person, one vote. The Supreme 5 Court held that the 14th amendment guaranteed equality 6 of voting power, and that electoral systems in states 7 which fail to allocate voting power on the basis of 8 population or unconstitutional. 9 Honey magazine rated Olive Branch as one of the 10 most attractive and fastest growing suburbs in 11 Mississippi and in the United States with a growth 12 rate of over 17 percent compared to other cities in 13 Mississippi at a growth rate of four percent. 14 Our voting strength has doubled since the last 15 election. Our school district is number one in the 16 site. Our population surge in Northern Mississippi has 17 indicated where we once were ignored one of the 18 strongest swing votes within the state. 19 So what is my concern then if we're growing at 20 that rate? There's a disproport- -- disproportionate 21 amount of race and party within local elected 22 officials. Which affects hiring practices, were they 23 elected officials disproportionately hire their family 24 and friends. The FENRA process to get qualified as a 25 contractor is also overlooked and under reported</p>
<p align="right">Page 27</p> <p>1 MS. KERR: Greetings Mr. Chairman, greetings 2 Mississippi Joint Legislative Redistricting Committee. 3 My name is Shalandra Kerr. I live at 8670 Dehart Drive 4 [ph], Olive Branch, MS 38654. 5 I've been a resident of DeSoto County recently 6 annexed into the city of Olive Branch and it says the 7 Southern Trail [ph] for nine years. I'm here with a 8 group representing one voice and the voters of the 9 city of Olive Branch. 10 I'm a Gulf War veteran, US Navy, and a former 11 chair in a DeSoto County, uh, in DeSoto County who was 12 responsible for hiring, training, and assigning poll 13 workers and watchers within the county. As committed 14 much time and service to make sure our electoral 15 practices within DeSoto County are fair and equitable. 16 I have attempted to build lasting relationships 17 and partnerships within the DeSoto County election 18 commission during 2015 and currently. I would like the 19 -- the Mississippi Joint Legislative Redistricting 20 Committee to adhere to the voting rights act by 21 ensuring that minority voting strength will not be 22 unreasonably compromised and all efforts to avoid 23 parts and gerrymander -- gerrymandering will be applied. 24 Two provisions of the voting rights act, section 25 222 and section 523 prohibit the use of voting</p>	<p align="right">Page 29</p> <p>1 publicly. 2 Those unfair influences increased voter and poll 3 worker apathy. Everyone is looking at the numbers here 4 in DeSoto County. We know that. 5 We know our issue is not profiting or the lack of 6 resources, but drawing the redistricting lines where 7 total deviations are more than 10 percent we're at 8 risk of lawsuit if we do not draw those lines fairly. 9 Prior to May 28th, 2021 as a county resident, two 10 distinct newly built areas -- I live in one of those 11 areas. Homes larger than 3,500 square feet were 12 annexed into Olive Branch. Residents were assigned to 13 DeSoto Supervisor district five, physically located in 14 Hernando over 30 minutes away from my home, which has 15 been an inconvenience over the past nine years and 16 presents similar issues for other unincorporated 17 areas. 18 I recall the most recent June 8th election. The 19 recent annexation was unfairly implemented May 28th, 20 less than 30 days prior to the local mayoral and 21 aldermen races, which happened on June 8th. 22 The current voting statute requires residency to 23 be established no less than 30 days before the 24 election, which disqualified my vote and my voice. And 25 did not permit me to run for an elected position now</p>

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<p align="right">Page 30</p> <p>1 that you have my tax money, DeSoto County, Olive 2 Branch. 3 What do I want? If a community is in annexed, 4 there should be an exception to the residency 5 requirements. I've already lived there for nine years. 6 And then you tell me, I don't live in the city? 7 But I'm paying -- I'm paying utilities, I'm 8 paying taxes, and you tax me unfairly and I can't 9 vote. We should allow voters who have been taxed 10 immediately to vote immediately. If not, the vote 11 would have a tax liability without being properly 12 represented. 13 We call that taxation without representation. I 14 call to the Mississippi State -- Secretary of State 15 asked -- asked the state Attorney General's office for 16 an official answer on this subject. Lastly, 17 constituents should be able to vote within the area 18 where we live, work, learn, and play. I am asking you, 19 sirs and ma'ams, would you please consider -- I'm 20 asking for a fair amount of time between the annexing 21 calendar and our election voting calendar. 22 Again, thank you for your service to these 23 communities, to the state of Mississippi. And I ask 24 that you would humbly hear my ask. Thank you so much 25 for your time.</p>	<p align="right">Page 32</p> <p>1 poorest municipalities in DeSoto County, Walls, and 2 Horn Lake, unfortunately I see the same disparities 3 that I saw as a child growing up. The elementary 4 schools are in substandard condition compared to the 5 other schools in DeSoto County. 6 And yet these students are expected to complete 7 to -- to compete with students in testing, college 8 preparation, employment. And again, the list goes on. 9 Women, people of color, and persons with disabilities 10 are excluded from the redistricting process. And this 11 continues to ensure mistrust in this political system 12 resulting in low turnout at the polls. 13 Issues such as housing, education, equal pay, 14 birth control, and abortion are women and children 15 issues. And a decision on drawing the redistricting 16 lines should be done by representation of those that 17 are impacted. 18 Although I personally do not believe in 19 abortions, I do believe that women have the right and 20 are capable of making decisions about their own 21 bodies. [applause] 22 Here is a list of insane laws in Mississippi and 23 throughout the country, uh, that I believe have 24 occurred because we have not been privileged to the 25 process. A law against abortion. While the political.</p>
<p align="right">Page 31</p> <p>1 [applause] 2 MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your talk. Ms. West 3 (ph)? 4 MS. WEST: Good afternoon. And thank you so much 5 for allowing us an opportunity to you to share a few 6 thoughts. I'm coming from a little different vein. So 7 please hear my heart. My name is Lovey West and I'm a 8 resident of DeSoto County, the city of Olive Branch, 9 to be specific. 10 Upon my retirement in 2016, I returned to my home 11 state of Mississippi. To my surprise, I found 12 Mississippi ranking near the bottom of all of the 13 issues that impact the lives of the poor people of 14 color and women and children. 15 I was reared in Holmes County, Mississippi, and 16 experienced firsthand the disparities that occurred 17 due to the lack of fair representation in the 18 political process. I experienced educational policies 19 such as separate but equal that only adhered to the 20 separate part. Our textbooks were outdated with pages 21 missing and the list goes on and on. 22 It all started with the redistricting, uh, parts 23 of the process with the absence of those parties 24 affected. 25 When I look at the poorest communities or the</p>	<p align="right">Page 33</p> <p>1 uh, forces vote against healthcare in Mississippi, 2 vote against housing, vote against education. 3 Laws prohibiting equal access to vote. While the 4 system taxes the poor, the middle income, and yet the 5 wealthy pay little to no taxes. Refusing federal 6 dollars for healthcare by ranking 50th in healthcare 7 in the state. [applause] And I just want to share 8 personally, I lived in Arizona and retired in Arizona 9 and I have Emama. I pay zero premium. 10 When I moved to Mississippi, I was stunned that I 11 had to pay a fee. I thought they had my healthcare 12 mixed up. So why would you refuse top -- the tax 13 dollars from the federal government and yet charge me 14 the poor person on a fixed income to pay a premium. 15 All of this starts with the redistricting where people 16 are not allow the opportunity to have -- have, uh, 17 access to the system. 18 Refusing to support the infrastructure bill while 19 ranking 48th in infrastructure and 49th in the 20 economy. Let me be clear. We want to a seat at the 21 table. Meaning that we want a redistricting process 22 that allows representation from all groups of society 23 to be in the room when the lines are drawn, not just 24 the politicians making the decisions for us. 25 Human nature allows you to defend your decisions</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 34</p> <p>1 by having these public forums, these scraps at the 2 political process is not enough. How would you like it 3 if someone was making the decisions about you, your 4 family, your generations, but yet you are not there to 5 express your needs and your concerns -- the decisions 6 are being made for you.</p> <p>7 Mississippi is the third blackest state in de -- 8 in America. Yet our ability to have a fair 9 redistricting process and a fair voting system is 10 still beyond our reach. When you were in the room, 11 drawing the lines for re- -- redistricting, look 12 around the room and ask yourself this question. Who in 13 my midst are representing the poor, women and 14 children, people of color, and the disabled?</p> <p>15 My aunt (ph) who once said, when we know better, 16 we do that. You know better (applause) because we have 17 reminded you, now we ask you to do better. I am so 18 grateful for this opportunity. And I hope that things 19 that we've share today will prick your heart when 20 you're making those decisions. 21 (applause).</p> <p>22 MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank, uh, thank you for that. 23 Addison (ph) Connor (ph)?</p> <p>24 MR. CONNOR: Hi, how are y'all? I'm Adevaro 25 Adevarance Tobia (ph). Uh, I don't have a speech or</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 36</p> <p>1 anyways, a couple more o- -- uh, questions. Um, how 2 are you all going to work to reduce the occurrence of 3 gerrymandering? Where you split up the district into a 4 bunch of weird shapes that make no sense instead of 5 concentrating to district together? (inaudible).</p> <p>6 MR. CHAIRMAN: I mean, this could be with advise 7 of counsel, we'll follow the voting rights act, and 8 we'll -- we will draw the districts according to the 9 requirements of the app.</p> <p>10 MR. CONNOR: So as much gerrymandering as -- as 11 is allowed?</p> <p>12 MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, there's -- hm. Go as little 13 as you have to to have one vote. And the other 14 requirements of communities of interest and all the 15 different requirements. That's not -- gerrymandering 16 is not the only requirement, it's just one of the 17 requirements.</p> <p>18 MR. CONNOR: I don't think gerrymandering should 19 be a requirement, though.</p> <p>20 MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, I -- I mean, I -- it just 21 might be resolved on requiring with the other 22 requirements. It's not a requirement.</p> <p>23 MR. CONNOR: There are other results where you 24 can avoid having, you know, people 30 miles or 30 25 minutes from their representative?</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 35</p> <p>1 anything planned, but I do have questions for y'all. 2 So you said this is a 20 member committee, a very 3 diverse committee. What's up with everyone being gone? 4 (applause) I -- of the six people.</p> <p>5 MR. CHAIRMAN: We're here to take comments from 6 the public, but I'll be glad to answer that. It's -- 7 it's volunteer and we've been here from all over the 8 state. We have nine of those in different parts of 9 state and they're going through the ones more than 10 likely that are closer to them. Some of these 11 individuals are a long ways. Some of it -- but it's, 12 uh, this is not the only opportunity they're going to 13 have.</p> <p>14 Some are viewing it over the camera. Some -- 15 there's a public -- there's a record being taken. It's 16 being -- it's being recorded and being transcribed. So 17 this -- this is not the only chance they have to hear 18 what people have to say.</p> <p>19 MR. CONNOR: I -- I do understand that you all 20 have a couple more meetings lined up, but the fact 21 that not all 20 of you all are here, listening makes 22 it seem like listening to voters is voluntary. I 23 mean, even with this redistrict -- (applause)</p> <p>24 MR. CHAIRMAN: (inaudible)</p> <p>25 MR. CONNOR: They should still be here. So</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 37</p> <p>1 MR. CHAIRMAN: Hm. Well, I'm not -- I'm not here 2 to debate you about this, but look, my first district 3 have -- was 95 miles. I live in a rural area. To get 4 enough people, sometimes you have to do that.</p> <p>5 There are re- -- there are legitimate reasons for 6 districts being large. Some districts are being small, 7 some of us have combined districts. Some have very 8 large districts.</p> <p>9 Okay. Um --</p> <p>10 MALE 2: So let me -- let me make a comment real 11 quick.</p> <p>12 MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes.</p> <p>13 MALE 2: For the record, this is my first time to 14 serve on this committee, so this is all new to me. But 15 do you understand what the process is about trying to 16 -- to fit? You have --</p> <p>17 MR. CONNOR: Yes. I graduated with a degree in 18 Political Science and did submit a thesis on 19 (inaudible). I understand. (applause)</p> <p>20 MALE 2: I -- I'm not trying to be insulting. I'm 21 just saying, do you realize where you have areas, for 22 instance, Marina -- when Lauderdale County. Look to 23 Lauderdale County of the day. Twelve counties in that 24 area all lost population. Every representative in 25 every center to there is district is going to get</p>

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<p>Page 38</p> <p>1 bigger because they have to get population. 2 So when you do that, you're going to start 3 squeezing areas, you're going to -- do you know where 4 people live that are currently in these areas? 5 So you're trying to figure out how to, not only 6 if you have minority districts that you're not trying 7 to collapse, you have to squeeze them in and more 8 their district out to go and grab population. 9 If you have two representatives over here in this 10 big block that's red, and you have a couple of 11 senators that are sitting there, uh, in this area, how 12 are you going to draw their districts where you go and 13 grab population? 14 But you can't keep a tight, compact, square 15 circle, whatever you want. You've got to go out and 16 get a population in different parts of the state. 17 There's different parts of this area over here. 18 So you're not trying to collapse a minority 19 district, but you're trying to grow their districts so 20 they can get population to the fit the requirements. 21 MR. CONNOR: Except in Jackson, which is what? 22 Three districts now? 23 MALE 2: Jee -- in the, uh, in the Senate? 24 MR. CONNOR: Oh, for the state. 25 MALE 2: What -- what are you referring to the</p>	<p>Page 40</p> <p>1 MR. CHAIRMAN: You're not allowed to use race. 2 MR. CONNOR: But we have minority/majority 3 districts and clearly you do. 4 MR. CHAIRMAN: We -- voting patterns. Voting 5 history. 6 MR. CONNOR: So you use voting history -- 7 MR. CHAIRMAN: You can -- you can use voting 8 history. 9 MR. CONNOR: So you're just using voting history 10 to determine what districts we're all going to be in? 11 That's all it is. 12 MR. CHAIRMAN: [inaudible]. 13 MR. CONNOR: [inaudible] I'm sorry [inaudible] 14 state representative? 15 MALE 5: That's right. 16 MR. CHAIRMAN: Enough comments. If you have a 17 comment, you can make a comment. 18 MR. CONNOR: I do. 19 We cannot be -- I'll talk to you about questions 20 after. 21 MALE 5: [inaudible]. 22 [applause] 23 MR. CHAIRMAN: And I -- yeah, I understand. Is 24 that -- I believe -- is it David Oles [ph]? 25 MR. OLES: Thank you. My name is David Oles, and</p>
<p>Page 39</p> <p>1 Senate districts? 2 MR. CONNOR: Jackson's always split up into 3 multiple districts -- 4 MALE 2: Yeah, because they have what, 200,000? 5 MR. CONNOR: No, even -- even at the federal 6 level, it's always split up to dilute the vote. 7 MALE 2: Well, the congressional districts are -- 8 MR. CONNOR: Yes. 9 MALE 2: Well, how -- how would you like to draw 10 that? 11 MR. CONNOR: Well, I mean, a city should be one 12 district or as many districts as -- 13 MALE 2: Well, it depends on how you lay the 14 districts out. I mean, if you -- if you have a 15 district that you're going from, uh, North Mississippi 16 down, at some point you're going to cut off. 17 MR. CONNOR: Yeah. But I mean, North Jackson, 18 shouldn't be in a separate district from South Jackson 19 just because of demographics. But anyways, so given 20 our redistricting process is governed by our current 21 state constitution. 22 The constitution of 1890, which if anyone didn't 23 know, provides -- or provided the legal foundation for 24 Jim Crow. I think it's important to ask how were you 25 all using race in the redistricting process?</p>	<p>Page 41</p> <p>1 I am the chairman of the DeSoto County Democratic 2 Party. I want to thank the Mississippi Joint 3 Redistricting Committee for their work and their 4 dedication to holding these sine meeting and allowing 5 voters an opportunity to be engaged through this 6 process. 7 I had been a resident of DeSoto County since 1972 8 and lived in supervisor district five, the Lewisburg 9 [ph] area, uh, since 1985. I was in Lewisburg before I 10 can say I live in Lewisburg. I was always between -- 11 well in between Fernando and Olive Branch. But now I 12 proudly say I live in Lewisburg. 13 I was not part of the recent annexation, but will 14 probably be annexed the next time. I've seen a lot of 15 changes and a lot of those changes in Lewisburg has 16 been very positive. I'm also happy to say that we have 17 a diverse community in Lewisburg. The Lewisburg has -- 18 area has a top rated school district in the county and 19 some would argue in the state. 20 Lewisburg exploded with the population growth and 21 beautiful schools, beautiful, affordable residential 22 areas. So much that the city of Olive Branch wanted 23 our tax dollars without offering representation in 24 return. 25 And Me and Mr. Carter did not confer on our, uh,</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 42</p> <p>1 presentations. The annexed area was not within the 30 2 day window so voters in the newly annexed area were 3 not entitled to vote in the recent municipal election. 4 Most -- much to the dismay and chafe of many voters. 5 The residents of Lewisburg want to be represented 6 by the people in our community. We are a strong-bodied 7 community who share the same values. We wanted to be 8 in the county and for some of that was taken away. The 9 Lewisburg community is not Bernando. Most -- due to 10 the I69, most do not travel by how we run the 11 [inaudible]. 12 On the county level, the Lewisburg community has 13 been ignored, misrepresented, taken for granted by 14 county supervisors, and representatives based out of 15 Bernando. Voters in Lewisburg had the -- they shop in 16 Olive Branch and mostly worship in Olive Branch and 17 have the bond with Olive Branch, not Bernando. 18 I, and many others, would like to see the 19 Lewisburg area aligned with Olive Branch. We feel that 20 the recent upcoming annexation -- it would be a better 21 fit for us to get the representation that we want and 22 that we deserve. It is important that members of the 23 Lewisburg community be heard and being involved in the 24 redistricting process so that our voices will be 25 represented.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 44</p> <p>1 Choctaw Nation of the indigenous. The same land now 2 houses the 82 counties and many still have the native 3 American names like Nishos [ph], Nobama [ph], Poosa 4 [ph], which is Choctaw for cotton. 5 Yet the representation of one person, one vote 6 guaranteed by the United States Constitution is not 7 adequately effected and the diversity of the people 8 and -- and the -- that live in the Magnolia state. 9 I lived in DeSoto County, Mississippi for the 10 last 23 years. And the population has remained under 3 11 million people for land mass of more than 50,000 12 square miles. 13 Our young people are leaving because they don't 14 see a future in Mississippi. [applause] My name Hamlin 15 Kelvy Panner, for the record. I live at 5225 Wyndam 16 Raise Drive [ph] in South Haven, Mississippi, ward 17 six. 18 A municipal district that is disproportionately 19 packed with a higher population of voters with more -- 20 which more than doubles the number of folks in all the 21 other five wards in the city combined. 22 And I have a map that I inadvertently left at my 23 seat that I'm going to present to you all when I'm 24 done. And for your reflection, please and thank you. 25 And thank you to you honorable -- thank you, 20</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 43</p> <p>1 It is imperative -- excuse me. It is imperative 2 that all voices be heard. Your committee has a 3 daunting task. It is our hope, and it is our 4 expectation that the Mississippi joint redistricting 5 committee will listen, understand, appreciate, and 6 base your decision on all of the input that you hear 7 tonight. I appreciate your time. 8 [applause] 9 MR. CHADWAM: Thank you. Oh, next is -- is panel 10 [ph] is it Panner [ph]? 11 MS. PANNER: Panner. 12 MR. CHADWAM: Okay. 13 MS. PANNER: Yes. Thank you. Good afternoon. 14 Thank you gentlemen, for being here to listen to us 15 and enlighten us on this process. Let me appeal to the 16 consciousness of many silent, responsible citizens of 17 the white community who know that a victory for 18 democracy in Jackson will be a victory for democracy 19 everywhere. [inaudible] Until we are all free, 20 nobody's free. [inaudible] Never think you've seen the 21 last of anything. Rudora Maltz [ph]. 22 Makor Bvers [ph], Panda Raser [ph], and Rudora 23 Maltz, three Mississippians whose legacies remain 24 relevant on the landscape of our political, social, 25 and economic foundation. Land once owned by the</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 45</p> <p>1 members of this bipartisan legislative community, 2 including Tod Bryan of Henri [ph], who is quoted in 3 declaring a ledger on last week stating that this 4 public hearing process is about providing context to 5 what our communities look like. 6 Despite Mississippi losing population, we know 7 that DeSoto County gained nearly 15 percent of 8 families. Many of those families are diverse and add 9 to the voting base yet in the 41 year history of South 10 Haven, an African American has never garnered enough 11 votes to even win an alderman position in ward six, 12 which is where I ran for alderman this past June. 13 Historically, this position has been uncontested 14 until 2013. That was the first time the Republican 15 incumbent had any opposition. And he won with just 16 under 400 votes -- over 400 votes. And this past June 17 in 2021, two of the alderman positions in South Haven 18 went uncontested, ward two and ward four, which 19 guaranteed the Republican an uncontested pos- -- 20 position representation without any opposition. 21 It is my belief that the lines drawn to those 22 wards favor Republicans winning where minorities are 23 packed and stacked in districts to lose their voting 24 power where one person, one vote is not effective. 25 This past June, my Republican opponent openly</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 46</p> <p>1 campaigned for the first time. I lived in DeSoto 2 County, 23 years of paying taxes. This is the first -- 3 he lives in my ward. The first time he campaigned. 4 Using his party's resources, rallies held on city 5 property, the Republican Congress control base 6 turned out just over 1800 -- eight -- 800 votes. The 7 turnout, however, represents less than 10 percent of 8 the city's registered voters.</p> <p>9 Yet those voters are precisely centered in ward 10 six and spread out over the large area of South Haven 11 to propel the Republican party to an almost guaranteed 12 victory. Ward six is almost impossible to win if you 13 are not an established Republican. It is designed to 14 include wealthier constituents, ward by Church Road to 15 Gatewell [ph] to include Nesbit [ph], which is five 16 miles down the road.</p> <p>17 Between School [ph] and Slade [ph], which is 18 historically Jago, that Gail Lyons talked about. An 19 established minority community along Church Road. 20 South Haven is 30 percent minority yet all of the 21 voters are the demoted so that none of the six wards 22 have any collective minority representation. The map 23 itself is evidence of a city with a third of its 24 citizens never being able to have people represent 25 their interests.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 48</p> <p>1 government, Christian values are not a part of how the 2 congressional lines are drawn in the state. It's time 3 for those who say they love God to love their fellow 4 citizens. Without the courts overseeing the process, 5 how can God-loving Mississippians be assured the lines 6 will be drawn with fairness, accuracy, and that the 7 districts are equitable without power partisan plays? 8 I thank all of you, again, for your transparency 9 in this process and for your commitment to hear from 10 Mississippians across the state. And in conclusion, I 11 have questions that I hope you can answer.</p> <p>12 How do we find out about local meetings on 13 redistricting the following positions? For mayor, for 14 aldermen, and races for school board, supervisors, for 15 judges. What are the laws regarding public information 16 and accountability?</p> <p>17 If you cannot answer the questions, please tell 18 me how -- who I can ask and how to find out, because 19 we need to be able to hold people accountable based on 20 the information that we are given. Thank you all again 21 for your time. And God bless Mississippi, and God 22 bless the United States of America. [applause].</p> <p>23 MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. Miss, uh, Lynn Black? 24 FEMALE 2: You said Diane or Lynn? 25 MR. CHAIRMAN: She's coming.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 47</p> <p>1 The process should be transparent, citizens 2 should be informed of how it's being designed, and the 3 process should be made for all people of Mississippi 4 to attend. I appreciate you all doing this. This is 5 the first time it's ever happened in Mississippi from 6 my records. But this should be not a voluntary thing. 7 This is a part of you all are in representing us. We 8 are the people, all of us are belong -- the government 9 belongs to all of us. [applause]</p> <p>10 We expect the Republican controlled legislature 11 of the magnolia state to live up to the creed of the 12 state constitution and the oath to take -- to 13 represent all citizens of Mississippi, regardless of 14 their political affiliation, their race, their creed, 15 their sexuality. The right of one man and one vote 16 should not be limited to those who are in power.</p> <p>17 The government belongs to all of us.</p> <p>18 Mississippi's history with this clandestine politics 19 has routinely disenfranchised black people, which 20 Mississippi, which stood for state's rights, i.e., 21 slavery during the Civil War recently adopted a new 22 state flag with the words as quoted by Governor Phil 23 Bryant [ph]. The former governor said it must say in 24 God we trust.</p> <p>25 However, without the support of the federal</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 49</p> <p>1 FEMALE 2: Uh, she's --</p> <p>2 MS. BLACK: Good evening. Oh, wow. Listening to 3 the people that have come before me. Um, I live in 4 Tupelo, Mississippi, and I moved here from Chicago. As 5 a kid, I always loved to come to the south because I 6 thought people in the south were loving, warm, 7 hospitable people. And I went to college here, uh, on 8 Alcorn State University.</p> <p>9 Then I left and traveled the world and came back 10 and started a business here because I looked at the 11 children that are coming up. And most of the children 12 that I have encountered in Tupelo and in McComb, 13 Mississippi have not been out of their area. I, um, 14 just that little concern because in the redistricting 15 and trying to learn everything, uh, it is important to 16 have your redistricting for women for the economic 17 security throughout the state of Mississippi.</p> <p>18 And the reason why I'm saying that is the 19 majority of our young children that we're servicing 20 here in child care and education come from single 21 parent homes. And these are young ladies that are 22 below the poverty level.</p> <p>23 Those children will never get the opportunity to 24 travel outside of their county, outside of their city, 25 um, and I just recently dealt with some children that</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 50</p> <p>1 I took to Memphis, to the zoo. They had never been out 2 of that area.</p> <p>3 If we don't come together and have some type of 4 common ground, those are the future leaders of 5 tomorrow. So what are we are training to them? That is 6 it okay for children to stay where they are?</p> <p>7 Their mindset will always be tunnel vision, but, 8 um, getting to my point, um, one of the things that I 9 hear -- and I live for the Mississippi Black Women 10 roundtable. So we're just trying to just get things 11 out, um, so that you know that black women make up a 12 large percentage of the voters throughout the state.</p> <p>13 Based on the census, that 2021 wage gap between 14 black women and non-Hispanic white women, and men was 15 0.6, which is 63 cents. Black women are largely 16 unrepresented and holding elected offices in the 17 state. Forty nine percent of the Mississippi women 18 make up about 49 percent of the overall workforce yet 19 make up nearly two thirds of a workers being paid 20 minimum wage.</p> <p>21 I can attest today as a business owner. Black 22 women are the largest group of women working in low 23 wage jobs. We believe that fair redistricting only 24 would help reduce the wage gap brought about black 25 women being underpaid.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 52</p> <p>1 10 members are scattered across the state, so I'm not 2 sure. [inaudible] yeah. It's the congressional 3 district, but I'm not sure about legislative.</p> <p>4 MR. POPE: Okay. Is, um, it's -- it's quite a 5 few, I've -- I've done a little research because, uh, 6 uh, the chairman -- he represents four and then I 7 don't know some of the others -- how many counties you 8 represent.</p> <p>9 Um, but just for the record, maybe, you know, we 10 can come up with how many counties are represented. I 11 know that DeSoto County is represented, uh, pretty 12 well. Uh, what other functions does this joint 13 community have besides redistricting?</p> <p>14 MR. CHAIRMAN: That's it.</p> <p>15 MR. POPE: Okay. So, uh, basically what we should 16 be doing as the public, trying to find out more about 17 the process that we will be undertaking since at this 18 time we do not have the absolute numbers in order to 19 even set the congressional district. Much less, the 20 legislative districts.</p> <p>21 And once the legislative districts are gone, then 22 the -- the counties; is that true? The counties then 23 do the, uh, redistricting per county, as far as their 24 supervisors.</p> <p>25 MR. CHAIRMAN: The counties won't do it. Not --</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 51</p> <p>1 Black women in the rural districts of the state 2 of Mississippi are more commonly single parents and 3 heads of households resulted in higher need to access 4 quality education and health care.</p> <p>5 It is important to have fair redistricting to 6 help women's economic security throughout the state of 7 Mississippi. Without proper redistricting, wage gaps, 8 access to their health care, and adequate education 9 would not be possible. We urge for fair and 10 transparent redistricting. Thank you for your time. 11 (applause)</p> <p>12 MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Um, next is Jerry Pope.</p> <p>13 MR. POPE: Good evening. Thank you, uh, 14 gentlemen. Thank you for serving the state of 15 Mississippi and, um, thank y'all for being a present 16 here. Uh, I'm going to keep my comments brief. Uh, I 17 do have some questions. Um, how many legislatures are 18 on the committee total?</p> <p>19 MR. CHAIRMAN: Twenty.</p> <p>20 MR. POPE: Twenty? How many House members?</p> <p>21 MR. CHAIRMAN: Ten. It's 10 and 10.</p> <p>22 MR. POPE: Ten and 10. Okay. With that number, 23 approximately how many counties are represented? I 24 know they're hard question.</p> <p>25 MR. CHAIRMAN: It's -- it's scattered across. The</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 53</p> <p>1 not the legislative.</p> <p>2 MR. POPE: Okay. What about judge-ships?</p> <p>3 MR. CHAIRMAN: Will not judge.</p> <p>4 MR. POPE: Judge-ships don't judge? Okay. Um, it 5 has been said on multiple times that we're -- will not 6 still, uh, uh, that there will be some counties split 7 in the legislative and maybe congressional?</p> <p>8 And also, uh, maybe some split in the precincts. 9 Uh, is there -- will there be any effort by the 10 community to eliminate the split county or the split 11 precincts as much as possible?</p> <p>12 MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, I can answer that. I think 13 to speak for everyone that we will have -- we will 14 split as few counties as possible, but counties will 15 be split. You can tell from the maps that a lot of 16 counties have to be included because of population. 17 Um, the precincts that were -- our -- our goals 18 exclude basically none.</p> <p>19 But we -- what the public needs to understand is, 20 once we draw our districts, the counties will then 21 move. They will call their districts and some of the 22 things that we have -- have hoped -- we have not split 23 the precinct and they will move change the precinct 24 boundaries after we've already drawn them out.</p> <p>25 And there's not much we can do about that. So</p>

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<p align="right">Page 54</p> <p>1 there will be some split precincts, but we're not 2 going to split any if we don't have to because of one 3 man, one vote requirements. 4 MR. POPE: Okay. Um, if a county has to split a 5 precinct, would it be under your umbrella to suggest 6 to the su- -- supervisors to it -- to add another 7 precinct? Especially on the counties that have grown, 8 uh, you know, I live in Mathea [ph] so, um, um, that's 9 -- that's -- that's the question I have. 10 MR. CHAIRMAN: We don't have any authority. 11 MR. POPE: No authority? Okay. No suggested 12 authority, I understand. Okay. Um, another problem 13 that I have, is, uh, you know, from the maps, uh, and 14 I'm sure you are very much aware of this. I feel like 15 you are. 16 The district two congressional district two and 17 congressional [sic] district three are the two 18 districts who have lost population while district one 19 and district four have gained substantially of 20 representation. And, um, I sus- -- that's pretty much 21 true? 22 MR. CHAIRMAN: Uh, not true by three. I think 23 three -- three's going to be a lot closer than two. 24 MR. POPE: Okay. All right. Yeah. It's about 25 6,000, something like that. Um, I appreciate your time</p>	<p align="right">Page 56</p> <p>1 that's what it is. It's numbers. It's not, you're 2 going to be here, you're going to be there. It's going 3 to be a number. Uh, again, my name is Jerry Pope. I'm 4 a longtime Mississippian. I was born and raised here 5 in this county and I lived about. So, uh, uh, again, I 6 want to thank you. [applause] 7 MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Williams? Mr. Samuel Williams? 8 [applause] 9 MR. WILLIAMS: Good evening. First, I want to 10 apologize for my appearance. I had to leave work and 11 come here because I had to work. And that in mind, I - 12 - I want to apologize I would not have come before 13 this body looking like this if that had not been 14 absolutely necessary. And on my way down, I decided 15 that I better get something to eat. And for somehow I 16 waste a little bit of my food on -- on me. So I'm here 17 and full bulk [inaudible]. 18 And I want to thank you all for allowing us an 19 opportunity to come out and do this. And I don't want 20 it to sound like a beating of the bush. I'm not. I 21 think a lot of people get a little excited, but not as 22 intuitive, when it comes to what's dear to me. My name 23 again is Samuel Williams. I live in DeSoto County and 24 I live in a great city called South Haven. 25 Now, I've been a Mississippian all of my life.</p>
<p align="right">Page 55</p> <p>1 and appreciate each and every one of you's work. 2 Um, I know Van [ph] and, uh, y'all going to be 3 rely on him quite a bit as far as crunching the 4 numbers. And the people need to understand that the 5 numbers are not necessarily a total, but they also are 6 split, uh, racial boundaries or any by -- by the 7 precinct on which you have to deal with. 8 And, um, it's a number punching game. It's -- 9 it's not a -- there's not a big old box out there 10 saying, well, this guy's white, this guy's black, 11 okay, we -- we going -- we -- we -- it's not a name. 12 You're a number. Mississippians need to realize that 13 they are a number in this, uh, redistricting process. 14 And I, you know, I don't know how you can else do 15 that. 16 One other thing is each of you have, uh, sworn to 17 -- to uphold the state constitution and the federal 18 constitution. You have legal counsel. The legal 19 counsel is going to guide you. Uh, you know, and 20 hopefully you don't make any mistakes. But, uh, that - 21 - that's what I see in the process is 20 people 22 sitting down and looking at us, all those numbers from 23 a data to determine what the districts are. 24 And we have much more computer processing now of 25 numbers than we -- we did. And I'm sorry to say,</p>	<p align="right">Page 57</p> <p>1 And that's been true a few years. About 73 of them and 2 was a Mississippian. I was born and raised up on the 3 land that I live on. I am third generation that lived 4 there when I -- let's hear a little history up on me 5 and how I see things working. When I was born there, 6 and on that same lady, 73 years ago, my address was 7 Rock [ph] One, Box 1238, no correct me. Rock One, Box 8 123, Jago, Mississippi, which was on all black town. 9 And -- and that was in 40s, 1947 to be exact, 10 that was an all-black county. Then [inaudible] took it 11 over, my address changed 120 Route One, box 1238, 12 Point Lake, Mississippi, but the land hadn't moved. I 13 am now live at 4855 Sweet [ph] Road, South Haven, 14 Mississippi. And unless it move since 6:00 this 15 morning, I still live there. 16 So I -- I have seen the effects for both parties 17 in rule because when I was coming up, it was a 18 Democrat. That's what it was. Republican wasn't I 19 don't mean to lead in on in this -- in Point Lake to 20 Jago. Then in South Haven took over in the 80s, forty 21 something years ago. First it -- it was a Democrat. 22 Our mayor was Democrat, first two mayors. Greg Davis 23 and I can't remember the first one. They were all 24 Democrats and they got elected. 25 Years later, our south [inaudible] moved to South</p>

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<p align="right">Page 58</p> <p>1 Haven. So I've lived in South Kensington [ph] right - 2 - right South Haven to South Memphis [ph] moved to 3 South Haven. Then it turned Republican. Now Democrat 4 can't get elected. I said all that to say this I'm not 5 so much concerned about who represents, as long as I 6 have an opportunity to choose. [applause] 7 And my vote be counted and be valued. Because, 8 you know, a vote can be counted, but I had a valuable 9 also, and that's what's happening in -- in South Haven 10 and I'm here to make sure that it's not make sure to 11 ask you all to make sure that the lines that you draw 12 for the state legislature and the federal government 13 does not de-value my vote. 14 Please don't let that -- don't do that. That is 15 not right. You know, I came up in a -- in a -- I 16 remember when I was a little boy, my grandmother used 17 to go pull when they were allowed her in my immediate 18 neighbors over there. All my -- all my -- both my 19 grandfathers was dead by the board, but both of my 20 grandmothers lived. 21 Land in DeSoto County, South Haven. Both -- both 22 side of the family. We still own land on both sides of 23 my family. And I didn't know what they were doing 24 because we were children and they kept children to the 25 say -- safely, but they would ask then questions about</p>	<p align="right">Page 60</p> <p>1 position. This particular woman that I was talking 2 about before, she ran for mayor. The other person was 3 a male friend of mine. And he ran for alderman in ward 4 six. 5 And the reason we chose ward six for him to run 6 in, because Jago, I told you it was right there in 7 South Haven is hard South Haven. And at that time, it 8 was 80 to 85 percent of South Haven was made out of 9 Jago, which was what? All black. 10 Ward six was 85 percent of Jago, so ward six was 11 mostly all black. The gentleman lost. Then after that 12 we were looking at the numbers. Well, okay, in four 13 years from now we going to be a force to reckon with. 14 You know what they done? In South Haven for a year? 15 They going to redistrict. That's right. I'm serious. 16 The -- the records show. I was in ward six, because I 17 -- it was where? In Jago. 18 They come and move me and I know the young lady 19 over there and her friend Gail Lyons Baptist, so we 20 all know each other. They moved us out of district six 21 and put us in district two. Now, there's not enough of 22 us in district two to make a difference, but there's 23 enough in district six anymore to make a difference. 24 If they had not moved us purposely, we wouldn't 25 have been able to town would've probably been about</p>
<p align="right">Page 59</p> <p>1 how many bubbles in a bar of soap. How much they had 2 paid poll taxes. 3 Now, that is the same thing then that kept 4 certain people from voting as gerrysandering now. It's 5 packing -- it's -- it's when you're cracking or I 6 don't know. I don't know. Ward. That's the same thing. 7 It was illegal then and it's illegal now. 8 [applause] So and I'm not here to accuse. My 9 profession, was a police, by the way. Memphis police 10 for 37 some years so I don't want you to think that 11 I'm accusing. 12 But I've already laid my facts out and want to 13 plead my case if I'm going to get accused. I couldn't 14 just come and arrest them. I got [inaudible] to build 15 my case. 16 So that's what I'm doing right here to you all, 17 if y'all allow me, just give me a little time. I'm 18 going to be on my case and bring it right home to you, 19 so that you can make us -- an independent decision and 20 I know that we all love to do that. 21 But now, and when I'm fresh, had something to do 22 with, uh, South Haven was two -- 2013, other than this 23 voting. 2013, a very dear and close person of mine ran 24 for office there in South Haven. She lost. 25 Another friend of mine ran for, uh, alderman</p>	<p align="right">Page 61</p> <p>1 alderman for ward six. That's how important it is to 2 us. That's what we talking about here when we talk 3 about redistr- -- uh, I believe it was this gentleman 4 here that talked about taxation without 5 representation. That's what we were talking about. 6 If you all don't set the guy and say that this is 7 the way that we want Mississippi to operate the way 8 that we are operating. I'm talking in your person. 9 That they way that we are operating and the people 10 down on you are not going to do it. 11 They going to follow suit. If you don't draw the 12 lines properly and give everyone -- every 13 Mississippian an opportunity to vote and be counted 14 and their vote to be there, then no one under your own 15 going do it. [applause] 16 Thank you. That's just the truth. We're all -- 17 I'm looking at some of you all, most of y'all on that 18 [inaudible] seen Juniors to me. Maybe one or two of us 19 maybe. We've come a long way together. But the ones to 20 tell are Juniors to me. We're going to know that one 21 day, someone can be sitting up there looks like us. 22 That's Juniors to us. Have our [inaudible] concern. 23 Now, the only way that they're going to happen is 24 that you take our concerns into and be sin- -- be 25 sincere about it. I don't want to belay the</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 62</p> <p>1 [inaudible], I just want to tell you what we need. 2 What we need is fairness. 3 What we need is one man, one woman, one vote 4 that's valued. What we need is the district's be drawn 5 properly so that we won't be discarded. That's what we 6 need. What we're asking from you is just what we need. 7 That's what we're asking for. 8 And we're not trying to -- no one is coming to 9 this [inaudible] and I know I have and said, if you 10 don't do this, don't do this. You know what we're 11 going to do? We're going to keep coming back. Going to 12 keep coming back and keep coming back. Unless I die, 13 I'll be the next one you're doing. 14 Not that I'm going to be here. But if I don't 15 die, I'll be back. I mean -- I mean, I'm just being 16 honest because that's how -- if it would -- we're 17 tired of it. And we -- we need to relieve you off. 18 Please. And you're going to have to be the hands that 19 do it. You are the only ones that I know that can do 20 it. I've lived in those three cities and I never 21 moved. Can you imagine that? Three cities. 22 I'm a third generation. I got a daughter that 23 lives here, but she got married out, she was the 24 fourth generation there. And I -- and I plan us to 25 leave -- ever leave the land. All I want you to do is</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 64</p> <p>1 higher power. And I believe that higher power. And it 2 took me a long way to be. 3 I told you I was with the Memphis police -- been 4 with the Memphis police department, 30 something years 5 to come into the military and [inaudible] also. And it 6 took me to high school. You know, speaking of high 7 school, when I went from high school in the grade 8 school and Bernardo Central High School in 1967 9 integrated. 10 It was six schools in DeSoto County. They had 11 three white and three black. So we had three black 12 principals at that time. To the day, I'm not sure 13 though, if there was old 40 and we still don't have a 14 three black principals. Now, doesn't that say 15 something? And you think about, I been paying taxes 16 since the -- well, no I didn't start in 1947. 17 My grandmother was paying taxes on both sides in 18 our family since 1947. My mother and father and we 19 still can't get representation. Did -- the cabinet is 20 in your hand. The baton has been passed in your hand. 21 Now, what you do with that baton, is what you're 22 going to have account. See, I've done my job. I come 23 to you, laid it out to you explained to you why we're 24 here. 25 And if you just let my words fall on your deaf</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 63</p> <p>1 do this. Build a community that kind of -- not by 2 where our votes are Republicans or votes for Democrat, 3 or votes for blacks. I happen to be black. I can tell 4 you now that I happen to be black and, God forgive, 5 male. 6 I happen to vote Democrat sometimes. I have voted 7 Republican. Yes, I have. But this is what I want. You 8 all to take into consideration that -- that young man 9 -- that man that was standing before me, talked to me 10 and said, I'm serious about this. I said in a funny 11 way, but I am serious. Let's vote -- let's do the 12 thing right. Let's just show the rest of the world 13 that Mississippi ain't what it is. 14 I called when the votes actually where you live 15 and I said the great state of Mississippi. Give me two 16 more minutes, I'm going to sit down. The great state 17 of Mississippi. I would love to be able to say one day 18 that I have talked to abiding people that heard my 19 cry. That heard my cry. That's all I'm asking is 20 righteous. All I'm asking is fairness. 21 When you go back to the board and get with the 22 other members and do -- let's try to -- let's try to 23 go this way. And you know what? I'm a firm believer 24 and I have to believe in something because if you are 25 a black man in America, you have to believe in some</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 65</p> <p>1 ears, it ain't -- that's -- that's not going to be 2 brothers and sisters. And I call you brothers and 3 sisters and that's what I mean about it. It's not on 4 me, it's on you. Please do the right thing. Thank you. 5 [applause] 6 MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. Uh, Mr. Mark Gardner? 7 MR. GARDNER: Thank you Mr. Chairman and 8 committee. Appreciate, uh, your service where you're 9 saying the salary of legislators. 10 So I know this is a labor of love for you guys to 11 travel all over the state and do this, and we 12 appreciate your service. Mr. Booth, good to see you 13 again. And, uh, appreciate Dr. Bein [ph] for hosting, 14 uh, he was here a minute ago. 15 This -- I know you're not here to discuss the 16 county and city redistricting, although there's been a 17 lot of conversation about that. I want to state as a 18 DeSoto County supervisor, that, uh, that process is 19 very open to the public. 20 And our -- our agendas are published on our 21 website and, uh, on our Facebook page. And anybody can 22 come and give us input. In fact, we welcome it. 23 And I'm sure in the, um, the mayors and board of 24 aldermen, when they do their redistricting meeting for 25 the city wards would -- would welcome input on that as</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 66</p> <p>1 well. My questions, uh, and I really don't have a 2 prepared speech. I just had a few questions. I know 3 that, uh, uh, our goal would be to have this process 4 done before the 2023 state and county elections. 5 Again, and the qualifying starts for that in 6 January of 2023, of course, you know, the census 7 bureau has been delaying and delaying and delaying 8 getting us the data. And -- and as I understand, y'all 9 still don't have that data in hand, but the process we 10 use is blob band [ph] how many -- how many people. And 11 we -- we understand, and I'm -- I'm looking at your 12 map on a phone, it's interesting. There's three 13 counties in blue, which indicated greater than 12 14 percent growth, uh, based on census estimates. 15 And DeSoto has 14 percent, so I know that some of 16 those districts will get smaller because of the, uh, 17 uh, the -- the population of people in those 18 districts. So I guess my question more specifically to 19 y'all is -- is at the timeframes that, uh, y'all are -- 20 -- are working towards -- towards the 2023, uh, Senate 21 and House, uh, gubernatorial county supervisor 22 elections. Or do y'all have different deadlines? 23 MR. CHAIRMAN: You know, we're -- we're at -- 24 we're here to hear comments, but I can just tell you 25 that it's -- that we're going to have redistricting</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 68</p> <p>1 a state level, trying to make our club inclusive. 2 But it occurs to me that you guys hit them on 3 impossible task, because most of the comments we've 4 heard that night talk about the fact of 5 misrepresentation. 6 But for most of my adult life, the civil rights 7 movement in this country has strove to s- -- to 8 integrate us as communities and we are. And so we're 9 salt and pepper communities, and you guys are going to 10 be drawing your guidelines along community lines, not 11 racial lines. 12 And I don't know how you're going to do it. I can 13 tell you on behalf of Republicans in Tate County, we 14 already share a -- a Senate seat with an adjoining 15 county. And it's not our desire that you further split 16 Tate County. And, uh, it is, uh, it is -- my desire, 17 and it is many people expressed and were able to state 18 wired to your decisions and the progress it speaks. 19 But it's my understanding is it's not that -- 20 that redistricting will not occur unless it passes 21 both the House and the Senate. Once you draw the lines 22 that you're going to vote on it. 23 And so each of us have a representative and a 24 Senator that -- that we can influence directly as to 25 how we feel about polling that -- that passes or will</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 67</p> <p>1 done in the -- in the next session in 2022. 2 MR. GARDNER: Okay. And, uh, where -- where can 3 the public and everyone who spoke -- where can we -- 4 where can we track the deliberations of this 5 committee? 6 Will it be on the, uh, legislative website as we 7 see -- I mean, one thing, obviously, we're seeing a 8 lot of these folks, uh, that have spoken is, you know, 9 I -- I feel certain with the growth in DeSoto County 10 we're going to have more, uh, representative in Senate 11 -- possibly Senate seats. 12 Uh, that -- that people will be eligible to run 13 for out of DeSoto County. Uh, how -- how would we 14 track that progress? 15 MR. CHAIRMAN: Legislative website. 16 MR. GARDNER: Legislative website. Okay. Thank 17 y'all very much for coming to North Mississippi. 18 [applause] 19 MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Mr. John Eubanks [ph]? 20 MR. EUBANKS: I, too, came from work. My name is 21 John Eubanks. I am a minority person. I'm white and 22 I'm a Republican and I am a member of the executive 23 committee, the Tate County Republican Club. 24 And I can tell you that you're just to go to the 25 Republican party and make it inclusive. And we are at</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 69</p> <p>1 this be done basically, uh -- uh, without input from 2 the public once you have drawn the lines? 3 MR. CHAIRMAN: It'll have to be voted on if 4 approved. 5 MR. EUBANKS: Okay. So we still have a voice. 6 Each of us have a voice. And, uh, it is my -- it is my 7 prayer that you guys are -- are able to figure out a 8 way to do this because frankly, I think this is a 9 conundrum and I don't know how you're going to do it. 10 And I know that you're going to like a lot of 11 people unhappy and you're going to make some people 12 happier. But, uh, uh, I thank you for coming and on 13 behalf of the Republican Party in Tate County, we 14 appreciate you being here. [applause] 15 MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. I want to thank all of 16 y'all for your comments and -- and remind you that if 17 you have any material that you haven't given us, um, 18 we -- you can either do it tonight or you can -- you 19 can send it to, uh, to the address -- to the address 20 that we're going to give you. Um, I want to thank our 21 host again for providing this -- this space. 22 This is, uh, a wonderful room to have something 23 like this and, um, thank y'all for -- for coming. We 24 thank our staff for their -- for their efforts and 25 making sure that -- that the people across the state</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 70</p> <p>1 can see this and, uh, there's a record of the comments 2 made. That -- that they're doing that. 3 And I want to remind the public that we're just 4 in the beginning -- right, I'll -- I'll lead you out 5 just [inaudible] we're just beginning this process 6 and, you know, we're just going to -- we're listen to 7 the comments, suggestions that have been made, and 8 finally y'all that are attending know that if you have 9 any other members -- 10 MALE 2: This was found in a chair. 11 MR. CHAIRMAN: Right. Um, okay. Uh, I have what 12 appears to be a large sum of money that someone left 13 in their chair? Um, [speaking in background inaudible] 14 we -- we do have a name on it. So, uh, don't -- don't 15 come up here to claim it, if it wasn't yours now. 16 [speaking in background inaudible] Jesse Edwards? Is 17 he still here? 18 FEMALE 3: I'll take it to him. 19 MR. CHAIRMAN: Oh. 20 [speaking in background inaudible] 21 MR. CHAIRMAN: Uh, write your name down on 22 something so we know who to give it. All right. Thank 23 you for that. Um, so probably -- I know you had 24 something that you wanted to say? So, um -- 25 MALE 5: Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 71</p> <p>1 2 3 I, Chris Headen, a transcriber, hereby declare 4 under penalty of perjury that to the best of my 5 ability the above 71 pages contain a full, true and 6 correct transcription of the tape-recording that I 7 received regarding the event listed on the caption on 8 page 1. 9 10 I further declare that I have no interest in the 11 event of the action. 12 <i>Chris Headen</i> 13 August 25, 2021 14 Chris Headen 15 16 17 18 (Standing Joint Congressional Redistricting Committee, 19 Janatobia, 8-9-21) 20 21 22 23 24 25</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 71</p> <p>1 just like to say to the people that spoke, uh, and 2 those who attended thank you for coming out and thank 3 you for speaking to us. The reason we come and have 4 these hearings -- the reason we go about this study is 5 to learn more about various areas of the state. And 6 all of us have learned something. 7 I didn't know about Jago. I didn't know that 8 Lewisburg was so upset that the people of [inaudible]. 9 I don't -- I don't know what the folks are going to 10 [inaudible] and I understand that there was a 11 [inaudible]. 12 But I hadn't had -- in all seriousness, this is -- 13 -- this is why we come and have an appearance. We -- we 14 -- listen to people who tell us things which are 15 inconsistent. One person wants X, one person wants my 16 X. 17 So obviously when you look at the map, 18 everybody's not going to be happy with everything. But 19 we have listened to what you said, our colleagues are 20 listening, uh, on YouTube or wherever it is, or -- or 21 also listening. 22 And it's -- it's been worthwhile for us to come 23 hear what you had to say. I hope it's been worthwhile 24 for y'all to come here and talk to us and thank you 25 for coming out and participating. [applause].</p>	

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Redistricting DeSoto County

I am Theresa Gillespie Isom, and I am a resident of DeSoto County. I have lived in DeSoto county for 16 years. I am a resident of Olive Branch Mississippi and have live in Olive Branch for 15 years.

My Contact Information: Address 4706 Coleman Rd, Olive Branch, MS 38654,
cell 901-283-6331

I am here today because of the unfair Maps for House District 7 and Ward 2 in Olive Branch. The Maps that are currently being used have helped to encourage and provide Voter Suppression. During my residency there has not been a Democrat elected to any office in Olive Branch.

My issue is that the Map for House District 6 and District 7 appear to have been drawn to dilute the Democratic Vote. Arcas like North Pleasant Hill has been split to be in part of each District. Also, part of DeSoto Central is included in District 7 and the same for Mineral Wells, the Precincts are split. I ran for State Representative, and it was impossible to win because of the splitting of the Precincts.

I again tried for a position in the Municipal race in Olive Brach and again I found that the Ward had be drawn to Elect the same Candidate. Right is the middle of the Ward a whole section has been removed and placed in another Ward. It is a very obvious the process of Political Cracking was put in place and implemented in DeSoto County to dilute the Votes and therefore cause Voter Suppression. This process is also preventing the constituents in these Districts and the Wards from electing their preferred candidate of their choice. I have brought a copy of the maps for you to see. A complete subdivision for has been removed that is in the center of the Ward 2 and an area that is five miles down is included in the Ward 2. This is so unfair. I am the HOA President in my neighborhood and people from other HOAs and neighborhoods come to me about issue that affect our community and ask for my assistance to help resolve them.

It is important that all citizens have a voice and that people feel that their voice is going to be heard. *Like I mentioned earlier, I have lived in DeSoto County for 16 years and Olive Branch for 15 years. I can say that we have not had a Town Hall meeting that has been open to everyone so that the issues that the citizens have can be heard and discussed. The voices of everyone should matter.*

I am a Community Advocate and I volunteer for many Organizations in DeSoto to help our community and I am requesting that fairly drawn Restricting maps be drawn. Fairly drawn maps will allow DeSoto County to be a community for all of the people, especially in Olive Branch and Southaven. District 7 had 30, 5501 residents in 2010 and more people have move into this district since that time.

If nothing changes the people will become more despondent and will stop exercising their Right to Vote.

SDT-SJLCRR-000221

JTX-025-051

